

HAWTHORNE NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT, CARPENTER SHOP  
(~~Production Area~~)  
(Building No. 302)  
U.S. Highway 95  
Hawthorne  
Mineral County  
Nevada

HABS No. NV-21-C

HABS  
NEV  
11-HAWT,  
2C-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
HAWTHORNE NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT

Carpenter Shop (Bldg. No. 302)

HABS No. NV-21-C

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NEV  
11-HAWT,  
2C -

Location: 113 Area, Production Area  
Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant,  
Hawthorne, Mineral County, Nevada

Significance:

The Carpenter Shop, Building No. 302, was built in December 1945 after the tremendous expansion of the Depot during the World War II period. The Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) is a nationally significant military district. It was built for state-of-the-art ammunition storage in the late 1920s (criterion C); it is by and far the largest depot of its kind known in the world with 2501 magazines and storehouses, 212 miles of railroad track, 418 miles of blacktop, and 232 square miles of land (criterion C); and it is significant for its role in World War II. Producing a vast amount of ordnance, it was THE Naval Ammunition Depot for the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Operations have included: production of propellant charges, projectiles, bombs and rockets; demilitarization of all types of munitions; and storage of national stock piles of munitions. Since the 1940s until the facility was turned over to the Army in 1977, Hawthorne NAD was the country's largest producer of Navy mines and depth charges.

The Depot is also significant for the role it played in the military history of the State of Nevada. It represents 50 plus years of federal military operation in Nevada. The Hawthorne NAD is the oldest twentieth century U. S. military reservation in Nevada. It has been in continuous active operational status since its commissioning in 1930 (criterion A). The Depot is the best collection of early twentieth century military, cultural resources in Nevada (criterion C). The Hawthorne NAD represents the largest industrial activity in the State of Nevada during World War II, as well as during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

The operation has been the local area's major employer and has represented relative economic stability to the town of Hawthorne since its commissioning. The Depot significantly changed the fortunes of the town of Hawthorne.

Over 90% of the buildings within the 148,000 plus acres of the Hawthorne NAD date from World War II or before. The district as a whole and great majority of the individual buildings within it retain integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

## HAWTHORNE NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT

Carpenter Shop (Bldg. No. 302)

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### Description:

The Carpenter Shop, Building No. 302, is 24' by 30', rectangular-in-plan, one story with no visible foundation. The exterior siding is corrugated asbestos sheets. The windows are wood framed casements of nine lights. Many of the windows are boarded. The building has vertical board wooden doors, single and double leaf. A low pitched, side facing, gable roof of corrugated asbestos covers the building. A porch with a wooden deck on the ground and a shed roof supported by plain posts runs along a portion of the southern elevation.

The interior of the building is primarily unfinished with exposed stud walls and roof trusses; some interior walls are finished with 10" horizontal wood siding. The floor is wooden planks. A small office is the only interior division in the building. The building is wired for electricity.

### History:

The Hawthorne NAD was created by an Act of Congress following the destruction of the Navy's East Coast main ammunition facility in 1926. In 1928, \$3.5 million were allotted for the development of the Naval Ammunition Depot at Hawthorne. Starting in 1935, plans were laid to increase the size of the depot. In 1939 the expansion began in earnest and the depot began producing ammunition and shipping it to classified locations. With the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Hawthorne NAD took on new importance; the Hawthorne depot was the principal west coast naval ammunition plant. Over 2,000 construction workers increased the size of the depot tenfold during World War II and 5,500 workers produced a tremendous amount of ammunition. Bombs, mines, and rockets were filled and assembled at Hawthorne NAD. Mines and rockets were also being developed and tested here.

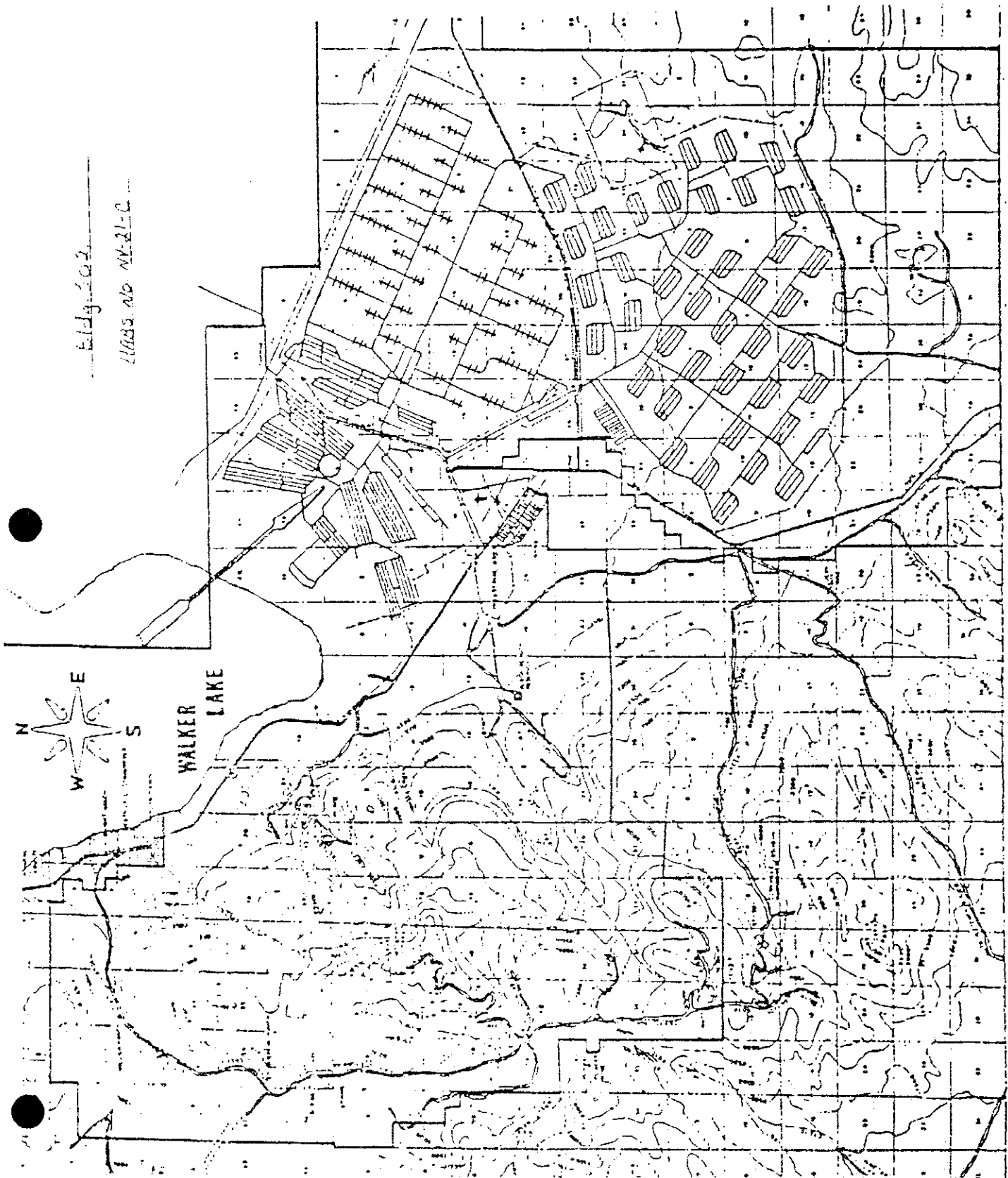
The Hawthorne Depot continued to play an important role in the Navy's chain of producing, storing, and destroying munitions after World War II. After W.W.II the depot was responsible for the destruction of thousands of tons of munitions. During the Korean and Vietnam conflicts the Hawthorne NAD provided back-up storage of conventional ammunition and mines for the entire Pacific theater. In 1977, under directive of the Department of Defense, Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot was transferred to the Army and became the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant.

### Sources:

Koval, Ana B. "Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot" National Register of Historic Places District nomination. 1989.

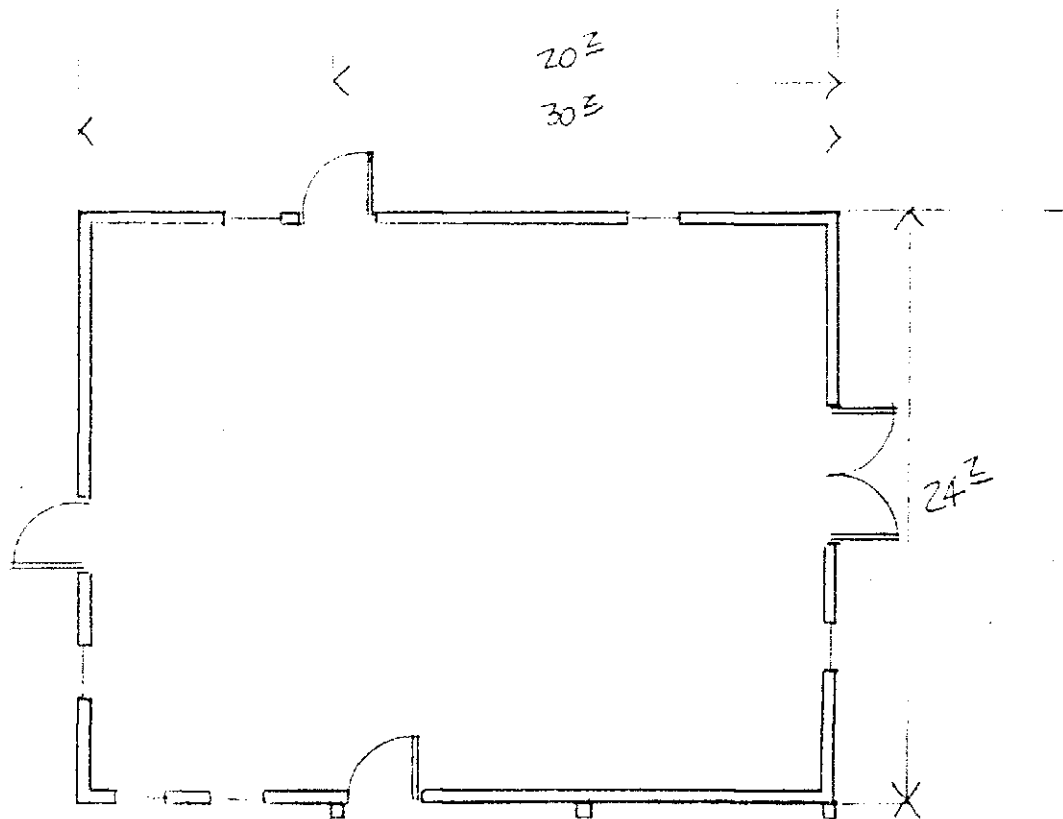
Historian: Ana B. Koval,  
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October 1, 1992.

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VICINITY MAP





Scale 1/8" = 1'0"

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